

## Editing the *Bdinski Sbornik* as a multilayered reality

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This paper reports on the preliminary results, the problems, and the perspectives of an ongoing project to produce a new and methodologically innovative digital edition of the *Bdinski sbornik* (*Codex gandavensis slavicus* 408) under the direction of Professor Dieter Stern. The project aims to create a digital edition that reflects the *Bdinski Sbornik* (henceforth *BS*) as a *multilayered reality*, with different moments of interest and different possible research questions attached to each layer.

These layers include:

- The fifteenth-century codex: *BS* as a physical, meaning-bearing object (as a whole of lexical and bibliographical codes).
- The fourteenth-century text collection: *BS* as a purposefully organized compilation of vitae of female saints, to which the Ghent codex is a unique textual witness.
- Evidence for earlier stages of 1) Slavic hagiographic translation and 2) the complex multilingual textual traditions to which these hagiographies belong. This approach regards *BS* as a textual witness for each of its entries, viz. for the individual vitae, translated from Greek into Old Church Slavonic in the tenth century and later.

Although the manuscript is the common artifact from which everything starts and therefore the common *immediate* object of study, it is certainly not the only *ultimate* object of study. Other such objects include the language used in the manuscript, the collection of texts, the individual Slavic vitae, the relationship of those vitae to their Greek source texts, etc. A digital edition that accommodates this complexity and that responds to different types of user engagement with the material will have to combine a documentary perspective with a text-critical one, thus combining the archival with the interpretative. In addition to creating a linguistically annotated documentary edition of the Ghent manuscript (along the lines pioneered in the pilot digital edition of the vita of Paul the Simple from the *Codex Suprasliensis*, as described in *Scripta & e-Scripta* 6 (2008): 23–45), the project emphasizes text-critical research into the individual vitae as well, which implies an integrated representation of the source material (variant texts), the process (collation and text-critical analysis), and the outcome (critical text) of that research.